MILE OAK NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026

AUTUNM 1 NEWSLETTER







Dear Families,

As we approach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly positive and successful start to the academic year.

There is already so much to celebrate, and I am extremely proud of our children, staff and wider school community. Thank you for the continued support, encouragement and positivity you bring to school life. It really does make a difference.



A FANTASTIC START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

It has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into their new classes, routines and learning. Across the school, children have returned with enthusiasm, confidence and a real readiness to learn.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Reception children and their families. Starting school is such an important milestone and we have been delighted with how quickly our youngest children have settled into school life. It has been lovely to see them making new friends, growing in confidence and embracing all the exciting opportunities that their first year at school brings.

Across all year groups, children are already making excellent progress in their learning. Our classrooms are busy, purposeful and full of curiosity, with children demonstrating positive attitudes, perseverance and pride in their achievements.

This strong start is a reflection of the hard work of our children and the dedication of our staff, who work tirelessly to ensure that every child feels happy, supported and challenged to achieve their very best.



ATTENDANCE – A REALLY POSITIVE START!

We have also made a strong start to the year with school attendance, which is fantastic to see.

Regular attendance is so important, not only for children's academic progress but also for their friendships, confidence, wellbeing and sense of belonging. Every school day provides valuable opportunities to learn, develop and succeed.

Thank you to all our families for the commitment you have shown in ensuring children are in school and ready to learn. We really appreciate your support and look forward to working together to maintain this positive start throughout the year.

MILE OAK NEWSLETTER

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AUTUNM 1 NEWSLETTER

Mile Oak Primary School

OUR RECENT OFSTED INSPECTION

As you know, we recently welcomed Ofsted inspectors into school. I am delighted to share that the feedback we received during the inspection was **incredibly positive** and the experience provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the many wonderful things happening across our school.

I could not be prouder of our children, who represented our school so brilliantly, or of our staff, whose dedication, professionalism and commitment to providing the very best education for every child were evident throughout.

I would also like to say a particularly thank you to all the families who took the time to complete the Ofsted survey.

We were extremely grateful for your honest, positive and thoughtful responses. Your feedback is incredibly important to us and we really appreciate the trust, encouragement and support you continue to show our school. Strong relationships between home and school are central to everything we do and it means a great deal to know that families value the work taking place.

We are now awaiting the publication of the final Ofsted report, which we anticipate will be available towards the end of November. Although we are unable to share the formal outcome until the report has been published, we are really looking forward to sharing it with our whole school community.

In the meantime, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the inspection and, more importantly, to the positive school culture and learning environment that we are so proud of every day.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you. As we reach the end of a busy and successful half term, I would like to thank our children, staff, governors and families for everything you contribute to our school.

A successful school is built on strong relationships, shared values and a collective commitment to doing the very best for every child. These are qualities that I see across our school community every day, and they are something we should all feel incredibly proud of.

It has been a fantastic start to the year and I am excited about everything we will continue to achieve together.

I hope all our children and families enjoy a well-deserved, restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term. We look forward to welcoming families back to school on **Monday 2nd November 2026**.

Mr. Lording

PUPIL LEADERSHIP – DEVELOPING OUR LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

One of the exciting developments this half term has been our continued focus on developing leadership skills across the school and the introduction of new pupil leadership opportunities for children in Years 3-6.



We believe that every child has the potential to be a leader and that leadership begins with developing confidence, independence, responsibility and an understanding of how our actions can make a positive difference.

Our approach to leadership is carefully structured so that children develop these skills progressively as they move through school:

- Early Years – Lead Myself: Our youngest children begin by developing independence, confidence and responsibility for themselves. They learn to make choices, manage their belongings, follow routines and begin to understand how their actions affect themselves and those around them.
- Years 1 and 2 – Lead Myself and My Environment: As children grow, they build on these foundations by taking greater responsibility for themselves and the environment around them. This includes caring for their classroom, looking after resources, making positive choices and understanding how they can contribute to their class and school community.
- Years 3-6 – Lead Myself, My Environment and Others: In Key Stage 2, children extend their leadership skills further, learning how to support, influence and inspire others. They develop teamwork, communication, initiative and an understanding of what it means to be a positive role model, while taking on greater responsibility within the wider school community.

This progressive approach ensures that leadership is not simply about holding a particular position. It is about developing the skills, attitudes and values that will help every child become a confident, responsible and thoughtful member of their community.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAMS



Building on this approach, we are delighted to be introducing 11 new pupil leadership teams for children in Years 3-6.

These roles provide our older children with meaningful opportunities to put their developing leadership skills into practice, contribute to school improvement and make a positive difference to the experiences of others.

Our School Parliament and democratically elected MPs already play an important role in representing children's views and helping to shape decisions across our school. This important work will continue.

The new pupil leadership teams are additional to School Parliament and our elected MPs, not a replacement for them. While our MPs continue to represent their peers through Parliament, the new teams will focus on specific aspects of school life, giving children practical opportunities to turn their ideas into action.

To prepare for these opportunities, children in Years 3-6 have received a Pupil Leadership Booklet, introducing the different roles available. They have also been taught how to apply for a job, including how to complete an application, reflect on their strengths and explain why they would be well suited to a particular role.

It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm, maturity and thought that children have put into their applications. The application process itself has been a valuable learning experience, helping children develop confidence, self-awareness and important skills for the future.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP – DEVELOPING OUR LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

Our 11 new pupil leadership teams are:



Eco Committee – helping us care for our environment and develop more sustainable practices across school.

Early Reading Team – supporting our youngest readers and helping to promote a love of reading from the very beginning.

School Food Ambassadors – gathering children's views about school meals and encouraging positive food choices.

Creative Team – contributing creative ideas to school displays, events and projects.

Computing Leaders – supporting the use of technology and promoting safe, responsible digital learning.

Librarians / Reading Leaders – helping to look after our reading spaces and inspiring others to develop a love of books.

Sports Leaders – encouraging physical activity, teamwork and participation in sport.

Play Leaders – helping to make playtimes active, positive and inclusive for everyone.

Welcome Committee – helping new children and visitors feel welcomed and part of our school community.

Safety Committee – contributing ideas to help keep our school a safe and happy place.

Wellbeing Committee – promoting kindness, positive relationships and emotional wellbeing across school.

Following half term, our new pupil leadership teams will begin their responsibilities, working alongside designated members of staff who will support, encourage and guide them.

We want these to be meaningful roles, giving children opportunities to share their ideas, contribute to decisions, take responsibility and see the positive impact they can have on our school.

Although these formal leadership opportunities are for children in Years 3-6, our commitment to developing leadership begins from the moment children join us in Early Years. Every child, in every year group, will continue to have opportunities to demonstrate leadership in ways that are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Ultimately, we want our children to understand that leadership is not about having a title or wearing a badge. It is about taking responsibility, showing kindness, helping others, making positive choices and having the confidence to make a difference.

We are incredibly excited to see our young leaders flourish and look forward to sharing their achievements and the impact of their work with families throughout the year.

Mr. Lording

LITTLE OAKS NURSERY






The children at Little Oaks have had a fun and busy start to the new term. We have welcomed lots of lovely new families and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our new friends. Our special stay and play event, for our new families, was a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and for the children to show their home adults how they learn and play at Little Oaks.

We read the beautiful story 'Owl Babies', by Martin Waddell. The children learned that even though their home adults might leave, they always come back - just like the mummy owl in the story. The children loved retelling the story using the story sack and owl soft toys.

It's been a lovely half term of getting to know each other and our families. Gruffalo Granny has been a brilliant addition to our book collection - talking about family structures and family visits which prompted personal and social discussions. The eagerly anticipated release of the new book didn't disappoint and is already a firm favourite.

At Little Oaks, we love getting messy! This half term, the children have explored a wide range of sensory play, including foam, paint, playdough and soil. These activities have not only been lots of fun but have also supported fine and gross motor skill development and built the children's confidence in exploring new textures.

The children have been fully immersed in the colours of autumn. We went for an autumn nature walk to Forest School, where we explored the texture of crunchy leaves, conkers and sticks. The children enjoyed sorting and making patterns with the leaves and counting how many they had and then created transient art pictures for a wonderful autumn display.

We have been exploring colour mixing with paints to recreate the vibrant shades of the season. This activity was reinforced in another of our key texts Colour and Me, written by Michaela Dias-Hayes. This is a wonderful story about colour mixing that empowers children and shows them that brown skin is beautiful.

We had a brilliant afternoon when the 'Little Me' theatre workshop came to nursery. Michelle read the story of Room on the Broom. We played spooky movement games and energetically danced round hats for a game of Musical Witches' Hats. The nursery was full of laughter and great fun was had by all.

We ended the half-term with an event for our families to spend time in the nursery. They joined us for some autumnal activities and to see what we have been doing over the last few weeks. We are looking forward to lots more special events over the coming months and we wish you all a lovely half-term break from everyone at Little Oaks Nursery.

The Little Oaks Nursery Team






A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



Our Reception children have had a brilliant start to their learning journey. The first few weeks of getting to know each other and settling in to school life went so well. We are so proud of all of them!

Children have quickly learnt the routines and expectations for phonics teaching and learning - they arrive eager for their sessions, listen well and give all tasks a go. We are so impressed with how they are linking letters to sounds, segmenting and blending orally and even beginning to word read - just WOW!



We couldn't get through a day in Reception without our noses in a good book! Over the half term we've been so busy getting to know stories well and have developed some firm favourites.

Anyone for porridge!? We know a particular girl that is partial to a bowl that is 'just right', but what's your favourite food? Goldilocks and the Three Bears not only introduced us to important narrative structures but also inspired a wonderful exploration of favourite foods as well as sketches and discussions about the special people in our own families.



We know the repeated refrain to 'It's My Birthday' by Helen Oxenbury off by heart and the story inspired recipe, card and invitation writing, birthday role-play and even baking real birthday cakes - delicious.



'Monkey and Me.' Monkey and me, monkey and me, we went to see... Emily Gravett's wonderful tale of a little girl's animal antics with her most treasured toy has been read and reread here in Reception. We love the rhyme and repetition and have enjoyed innovating the story to include our own special toys. We have worked hard orally rehearsing lines from the story, getting ready to have a go at our first piece of narrative writing!



Our 'Booknic' with our year six friends was a real highlight where we enjoyed book browsing and sharing some quality stories with them on a picnic blanket on the school field. We even prepared for the occasion by making sandwiches and icing biscuits. It's fair to say, the event was a hit with all the children!

Our topic has been brought to life by several very special baby visitors- thank you to all the families that supported this! All the baby photographs have been a joy to share, and the children have been making links with their own pasts through talking about how they have changed since they were little. The school nurse has also been to see us to support our understanding.

A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



As if that wasn't enough, the children have become such independent learners in our environments. They love playing and learning together both inside and outside.

Ladybird Class really enjoyed our first 'school trip' where we took a walk around our local area. Being familiar with our new classes, new school and our local area gives us a huge sense of belonging. Thank you to the adults that were able to support this trip.

Unfortunately, Dragonfly Class had to cancel their trip due to poor weather conditions, but this will take place in the new term.

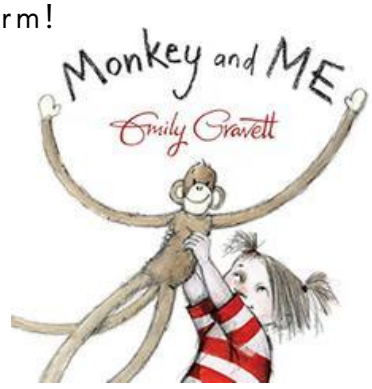


Thank you to all the parents and carers that attended our Reception reading meetings. It's so important that you hear about our approach and provision at Mile Oak so that you are fully equipped to support your child at home. Please keep their 'book bus' book, letter sound book and their reading journal in their book bags and remember to bring the book bag every day. Please come and see us if you couldn't make the meeting; it's through working together that your children will thrive in their reading.

Please continue to name everything as we enter the period of hats, gloves and warm coats! We will be learning outside as well as inside so please dress your children appropriately. As a little preview, our next topic is called 'It's Getting Darker'. As the weather changes and the seasons flow, we will explore festivals and celebrations from around the world and explore nature and our local habitats, including our forest school area.



We can't wait to see where our learning and our stories will take us next half term!



... The Reception Team





















A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE AND TWO

What an amazing start to the Autumn Term we have had in Years 1 and 2! The children have settled in brilliantly and have shown such enthusiasm and excitement for their learning.

Our topic, The Great Fire of London, has certainly captured everyone's imagination! We were delighted to welcome Rainbow Theatre for a very special interactive performance. The children loved taking part and were transported back in time to experience what life might have been like in London in 1666.

One of the highlights was making and then burning our own Tudor houses! The children were fascinated to see how quickly fire could spread and enthusiastically sang London's Burning together. These exciting experiences inspired some wonderful writing, with Year 2 using their knowledge and extracts from historical diaries to write their own diary entries.

Our creativity has continued through art and music. The children have produced fantastic artwork inspired by the Great Fire of London, experimenting with collage, crayons and paint to create different effects. In music, they have explored dynamics, pulse, beat and rhythm. They particularly enjoyed learning to sing London's Burning in rounds and accompanying their singing with instruments.

Marvellous Maths!

In Year 1, the children have been busy exploring the mathematical language of greater than, fewer than and equal to. They have loved using practical resources, including playdough, Numicon and counting animals, to develop their understanding and explain their thinking.

In Year 2, the children have been developing their place value knowledge, learning to partition numbers flexibly in different ways. They have confidently explored this using part-whole models, bar models and Dienes.

Keep Up the Fantastic Learning at Home!

Please continue to encourage your child to play Numbots regularly at home. A mixture of Story and Challenge modes is a brilliant way to build confidence, fluency and number skills.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled and the enthusiasm they have shown throughout this half term. What a wonderful start to the year. We can't wait for all the exciting learning still to come!



The Year 1 and 2 Team













A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE

Well what a busy start to the new school year Beech and Cherry class have had!

We have hit the ground running with our topic about The Stone Age. We have enjoyed reading the books 'Stone Age Boy' and 'The Stone Age Hunters and Gatherers', where we learnt about how Stone Age people lived and survived. The stories showed us how they knapped flints into shapes to make arrow heads, spears and axes. We learned how they hunted and patiently stood still to catch fish.

We had a wonderful visit to St Nicolas Primary School and enjoyed a poetry performance by Roger Stevens. He was very inspiring and the children are developing their reading fluency and performance skills!

In History we have looked at timelines and plotted what we have already learnt in KS1 in history so far. We added The Stone Age trying to understand where in our history it sits. We have listened and explored key texts in English and Guided Reading to support our understanding about how life might have been for our Stone Age ancestors! We have learned how the transition from hunter gatherers to farming impacted the lives of our ancestors.

In Science, we have thoroughly enjoyed finding all about rocks and have linked this to our Stone Age topic. We have investigated different types of rock, how rocks are formed, and how fossils are created. The children have investigated rock formation by making models of the different processes, one of the models being edible! We applied heat and pressure to a collection of ingredients, (rice cakes, raisins, chocolate and biscuit) and tried the resulting rock formation (metamorphic!) Finally, as scientists, we did experiments on rocks in order to sort and classify them.

In Art, we have enjoyed learning how to create different tones and shades by using different types of pencils. The children have practised different pencil strokes to create tonal shades. We then used these skills to recreate images of Stone Age tools and weapons.

Well done to Beech and Cherry class children, we are very proud at how you have all settled into Year 3!













A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR

Year 4 have thrown themselves into the new school year with excitement and determination! We have been learning about the Tudor dynasty and how King Henry VIII became king. We first learnt about Henry VII and re-enacted The Battle of Bosworth where Richard III was defeated by Henry's army and his allies. We then went on our trip to Hampton Court Palace which the children loved - thank you to the parents who helped that day!

The Guided Reading book that we have taken inspiration from is called, 'The Tudors, Kings, Queens, Scribes and Ferrets.' The book uses a humorous approach to convey this defining moment in history giving some quite gory detail, which some of the children have enjoyed. Using our re-enactment and the text, we wrote a detailed recount of the events of The Battle of Bosworth. Ask the children to tell you about it: we are sure you will be as impressed as we are.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our place value knowledge, by understanding how Thousands fit into the number system and using measures to understand it in real-life. The children have also really impressed us with their times tables. We have focused on the 3s and 6s so far because they are related. They are becoming so fluent with these and their related division facts, and are beating the time in which they are able to recall them!

Our Science this term, has been learning about the digestive system and food chains. We started by looking at teeth and the different jobs they do when eating food. We then became teeth detectives and had to work out what type of food an animal might eat by which teeth are most dominant. The snake skull confused us the most as it really did not have teeth like any other animal. Through discussion, we realised that a snake does not chew its food but simply digests it whole!

PE has been very exciting this term, learning how to play Dodge Ball and Tag Rugby. We are also working really hard as a whole class to complete as many laps for the daily mile as we can. Ash class have already been crowned the weekly winners, by completing the most laps out of any other class, in the whole school and Hazel Class are striving towards it! Let's keep up the hard work next half term.

We are extremely proud of how all of the children have begun Year 4 and how they are building the resilience and thirst to learn new things. We are really looking forward to the Pupil Leadership roles that will assist shaping the school's curriculum and offer next term - watch this space?



... The Year 4 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE









At the start of the term, Year Five were incredibly lucky to have experienced an Ancient Greek enrichment day. The day was filled to the brim with activities aimed at increasing their knowledge of Ancient Greece. The children played a strategy game, completed a fact finding quiz and learnt about myths from the era. Each class also participated in an Ancient Greek competition, where Athens and Sparta competed against each other. They were also able to experience what battle attire the Greeks would have worn as well as the weapons they would have used during this time. The children loved this experience and it has ignited a passion for their topic this term.

Linking to their Ancient Greek history topic is our fantastic class text - Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief - which has really captured the children's imaginations and has taught us about Percy's struggles and determination to succeed in his mission. We have used this book to inspire our writing and the children have written and published three wonderful pieces; a letter, a character description and setting. They should all be very proud of the hard work they have put into their writing so far in Year 5.

We have begun our maths curriculum this year by learning about place value and more specifically looking at seven-digit whole numbers and the value of their digits. The children have worked extremely hard on this topic, which will feed into the rest of the mathematical concepts that they will cover this year. We have also learnt about some famous ancient Greek mathematicians!

In science, the children have been looking at a range of life cycles. We have learned the life cycle of an amphibian, how sneaky cuckoos are during their life cycle, compared different life cycles and explored how a flowering plant reproduces.



...The Year 5 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX





Year 6 have had a fantastic term immersing themselves in the world of the Vikings! Our topic began with an exciting full-day workshop hosted by Portals of the Past. The children explored the lives of these fascinating raiders and traders through captivating tales, interactive games and quizzes. The day ended with a thrilling contest of strength, as the classes competed using their newly learnt Viking war cries!

Throughout the term, the children have been inspired by our two class texts, Beowulf and Viking Boy, using them as inspiration for their own creative writing. They have showcased their understanding of figurative language and the technique of 'show, not tell' to craft vivid, gruesome recounts of epic battle scenes between the main characters. Their writing has been packed with powerful vocabulary and gory descriptions!

Our young historians have also been busy researching Norse mythology and producing non-chronological reports about Valhalla. They have explored fascinating Viking beliefs about the afterlife and discovered the dramatic events surrounding Ragnarök. Why not ask your child what happens when the world of the Norse gods comes to an end?

History has continued to come alive with our exciting Battle of Hastings re-enactment on the school field. The children stepped back in time to experience this famous historical battle, creating a colourful and impressive display with their shields and weapons. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring their historical learning to life and imagine what it might have been like to take part in such a significant event.

In Science, Year 6 have been developing their skills in classification, learning about the pioneering work of Carl Linnaeus. They have explored how living things can be grouped and organised according to their shared characteristics, discovering how Linnaeus's system helped shape the way scientists classify organisms today.

It has been a wonderful term full of creativity, curiosity and hands-on learning, with Year 6 embracing every opportunity to explore the past, develop their writing skills and investigate the world around them!



... The Year 6 Team





A MESSAGE FROM FOREST CLASS






We have loved exploring our topic, Out and About, learning about different places, animals and objects. We have particularly enjoyed getting messy during our sensory play!

Our daily walks have been a lovely opportunity to spend time together and we have been developing our skills in negotiating, sharing and taking turns during play.
In Maths, we have been exploring number bonds to 10 and learning about parts and wholes using a wide range of practical resources.

As part of our topic, we have enjoyed exploring different images and describing what we can see. Our teachers have been really impressed with our ideas and handwriting! We have started to improve our writing by adding adjectives and creating our own sentences to describe story settings.

We have also been focusing on the book The Dot and have loved creating our own colourful dot artwork using a variety of materials.

Our morning patterning and handwriting activities have been a great way to start the day. We have also been busy developing our fine motor skills in our finger gym area.

We are incredibly proud of everyone in Forest Class and how brilliantly they have settled back into our routines!

We are now looking forward to our next topic, Julia Donaldson, inspired by the children's wonderful enthusiasm for her stories!



...The Forest Class Team





PE UPDATE



We are delighted to have started the new academic year as a Platinum PE School, an achievement we were incredibly proud to secure at the end of last year. This recognition reflects the commitment of our pupils and staff to providing and participating in high-quality physical education, school sport and physical activity.

It has been a fantastic start to the term across all year groups, with pupils showing great enthusiasm, energy and commitment during PE lessons and sporting activities. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils getting involved, developing their skills and, most importantly, enjoying being active.



Our school football teams have also made an excellent start to the season. Both our boys' and girls' teams have represented the school brilliantly at local tournaments, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship.

We are particularly proud of the way our pupils have conducted themselves both on and off the pitch. They have shown respect for opponents, supported one another and represented our school with real pride.

A huge well done to everyone who has taken part so far. We look forward to seeing even more pupils getting involved in competitive sport and continuing to build on this excellent start throughout the year.

Here's to another fantastic year of PE, sport and physical activity!

... Mr Crellin





Mile Oak Primary School

The Zones of Regulation

At Mile Oak Primary School

Understanding our feelings is important to help us to regulate our emotions.

At Mile Oak we use the Zones of Regulation to help children recognise their feelings and choose strategies to support them. This helps us create a calm, safe and positive environment for everyone.

BLUE ZONE

Low energy, feeling slow or tired



Sad	Tired
Sick	Bored
Lonely	Moving slowly

Helpful strategies:

- Take some deep breaths
- Move your body gently
- Have a drink of water
- Talk to a trusted adult
- Do something you enjoy

GREEN ZONE

Ready to learn



Happy	Calm
Focused	Content
Proud	Ready to learn

Helpful strategies:

- Keep doing what you're doing
- Be a kind friend
- Use positive self-talk
- Enjoy learning
- Help others

YELLOW ZONE

Heightened energy, feeling worried or excited



Worried	Excited
Frustrated	Nervous
Silly	Wiggly

Helpful strategies:

- Take some deep breaths
- Use a movement break
- Talk to a trusted adult
- Use a calming strategy such as squeeze, stretch, fidget or draw
- Think about what you need

RED ZONE

High energy, feeling strong emotions



Angry	Terrified
Overwhelmed	Out of control
Yelling	Hitting

Helpful strategies:

- Stop and take space
- Use slow, deep breathing
- Talk to a trusted adult
- Move to a calm space
- Use a regulation tool such as a sensory item or calm box
- Ask for help

We learn to...



- Talk about our feelings and name the zone we are in.
- Use strategies to help us move to the green zone.
- Use the language of the zones across the school.
- Ask for help when we need it.
- Be kind and respectful of others' feelings.

All feelings are valid.

It is okay to be in any zone.

Remember...

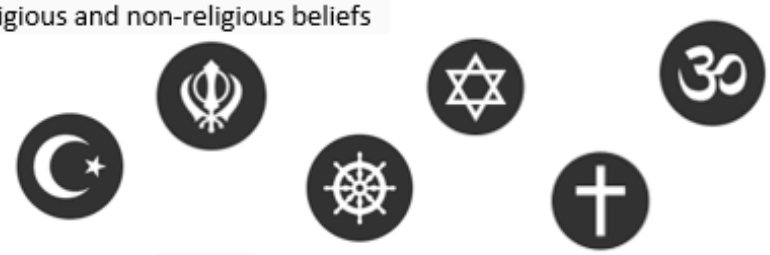
- We can all experience every zone.
- We can take steps to help ourselves.
- The zones help us make good choices.
- Together we create a calm, positive and inclusive Mile Oak community.



Every child known ♥ Every child valued ♥ Every child belongs

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Autumn 2 Religious Festival Calendar

November			
1st November	All Saints' Day	Christian 	This day provides a chance to offer thanks for the work and witness of all saints, recognising that not all are known or specially celebrated.
8th – 15th November		Inter Faith Week	Beginning on Remembrance Sunday and running until the following Sunday each year, Inter Faith week seeks to strengthen good inter-faith relations, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs 
30th November	St Andrew's Day	National	The patron saint of Scotland since the 8th century. Andrew was an apostle and brother of St Peter.
29th November	Advent Sunday	Christian 	Advent is the start of the Christian year, four Sundays before Christmas. It is often celebrated by lighting the first candle in the advent crown – a circular wreath of greenery. A further three candles are lit on subsequent Sundays, culminating with the Christmas candle on the 25th December. This signifies the transition from darkness to light.
December			
4th - 12nd December	Hanukah	Jewish 	This is a week-long celebration and one of the biggest festivals of the year for Jewish people. The festival marks the date about two thousand two hundred years ago when the Maccabees recaptured the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and re-dedicated it to Jewish worship.
25th December (in some countries 6th January)	Christmas Day	Christian 	Christmas Day celebrates the birth of Jesus, whom Christians believe to be the son of God. Gifts are given as reminders of the offerings brought to the infant Jesus, Christmas carols are associated with this time and nativity sets are displayed in many churches and in some homes.

NEXT HALF TERM

Topics for Autumn 2

Reception - It's Getting Darker

Year 1 - Traditional Tales

Year 2 - Once Upon a Time

Year 3 - Pollution Solution

Year 4 - The Tudors and Explorers

Year 5 - Ancient Greeks

Y**ear 6** - Rivers and North America

Please visit the school website and select your child's year group to view the curriculum overview for their year: www.mileoakschool.co.uk/year-groups.

This details what children will be learning in each subject.

In addition to which topics children will cover, the curriculum maps show the key skills which will be taught.

Core Reading Texts for Autumn 2

Reception: Mrs Blackhat, A Dark Dark Tale, The Woods, Stickman and The Christmas Story

Year 1: Fairy Tale Pets and Deep Dark Woods

Year 2: Prince Cinders, The Tunnel and Little Red

Year 3: Song of the Dolphin Boy

Year 4: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Year 5: Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

Year 6: The Boy in the Tower



IMPORTANT DATES

November

- **Mon 02.11.26** Children return to School
- **Tues 03.11.26** Reception Admissions 2027/28 School Tour 9:30am
- **Wed 04.11.26** Individual and Sibling Photos
- **Wed 11.11.26** Year 1 & 2 - Starling Class Reading Cafe 9:00am
- **Wed 11.11.26** Reception Admissions 2027/28 School Tour 2:00pm
- **Wed 11.11.26** PE School Games Event - Cross Country - An email will be sent to the children attending.
- **Mon 16.11.26 to Friday 20.11.26** Anti Bullying Week
- **Tues 17.11.26** Parents' Consultations
- **Tues 17.11.26** Reception - Ladybird Class attend Forest School 1:30pm and 2:15pm - More information to follow
- **Wed 18.11.26** Year 1 & 2 - Goldfinch Class Reading Cafe 9:00am
- **Thurs 19.11.26** Reception - Dragonfly Class attend Forest School 1:30pm and 2:15pm - More information to follow
- **Thurs 19.11.26** Parents' Consultations
- **Mon 23.11.26** Little Oaks Nursery Pupil Progress Meetings - More information to follow.
- **Tues 24.11.26** Little Oaks Nursery Pupil Progress Meetings - More information to follow.
- **Tues 24.11.26** PE School Games Event - Inclusions Festival - An email will be sent to the children attending.
- **Wed 25.11.26** Year 1 & 2 - Wren Class Reading Cafe 9:00am
- **Wed 25.11.26** Year 6 - Sycamore Class visit Seven Sisters
- **Wed 25.11.26** Reception Admissions 2027/28 School Tour 6pm
- **Thurs 26.11.26** Year 6 - Blackthorn Class visit Seven Sisters
- **Friday 27.11.2**6 Whole school Festive craft monring with parents.
- **Friday 27.11.26** MP Peter Kyle assembly.

December

- **Wed 02.12.26** Year 5 visit St Nicholas Church
- **Wed 02.12.26** One Voice Choir - Rehearsals
- **Wed 02.12.26** One Voice Choir Performance at Brighton Dome
- **Mon 07.12.26** Year 1 & 2 visit the Church of the Good Shepherd
- **Fri 04.12.26** National Santa Dash
- **Mon 07.12.26** Year 3 visit the Church of the Good Shepherd
- **Tues 08.12.26** Reception Christmas Show 2:15pm
- **Wed 09.12.26** Reception Christmas Show 9:30am
- **Wed 09.12.26** Year 4 visit the Church of the Good Shepherd
- **Thurs 10.12.26** Reception visit Paddock Court
- **Fri 11.12.26** Rocksteady Concert 9am
- **Fri 11.12.26** Reception visit the Church the Good Shepherd
- **Fri 11.12.26** Little Oaks Nursery Stay & Play - More information to follow
- **Mon 14.12.26** Year 1 & 2 Christmas Show 2:30pm
- **Tues 15.12.26** Year 1 & 2 Christmas Show 9:30am
- **Tues 15.12.26** Year 4 & 6 Christmas Show 2:30pm
- **Wed 16.12.26** Year 4 & 6 Christmas Show 9:30am
- **Wed 16.12.26** Festive Wear and Christmas Dinner Day
- **Wed 16.12.26** Year 3 & 5 Christmas Show 2:30pm
- **Thurs 17.16.26** Year 3 & 5 Christmas Show 9:30am
- **Fri 18.12.26** Class Christmas Parties
- **Fri 18.12.26** Last Day of Term



MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Mile Oak Primary School

"THINK BIG"

Safeguarding Team



Mr Lording,
Headteacher (DSL)



Mr Cosgrove,
Deputy Headteacher (DSL)
Designated Teacher for Children in Care/Previously in Care



Mrs Larter,
Family Champion (DSL)



Mrs Turner,
Governor for Safeguarding and Designated Teacher for Children in Care/Previously in Care

In the unlikely event that none of the safeguarding team are available, please contact:

Front Doors for Families

Telephone: 01273 290400 (9am-5pm, Monday to Thursday and 9am-4.30pm, Fridays).

Emergency Duty Service (outside working hours): 01273 335 905 or 01273 335 906

Email: FrontDoorforFamilies@brighton-hove.gov.uk

COMMUNICATION

We have received excellent feedback regarding our new communication protocol for staff and parents. All communication is logged by the admin team and tracked for a response.

Whilst it can sometimes feel simpler to grab a teacher at the end of the day, this means staff are not able to supervise children who they are releasing to parents. Before school, it is vital that teachers can fully prepare for the day ahead and many of them run early morning interventions. In addition, our wonderful admin team track communication which means it does not get lost in a busy email inbox or become a forgotten question at the end of the school day.

Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

The Admin team are very happy to take calls, emails or even messages in the postbox out side of the reception area and will ensure your query, concern or compliment is passed on to the correct members of staff.

For further information on our communication protocol, please visit our website.

Communications Protocol

To ensure swift responses, equitable access and careful tracking of communication, we have asked the administration team to adhere to the following communication protocol. All communication will be directed to the correct stage.

Stage 1 Class Teacher

- Contact the class teacher via office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk or by making an appointment.
- If your compliment, concern or complaint has not been resolved, please ask the class teacher/contact the office to elevate this to stage 2

Stage 2 SLT

- Contact will be made with the correct member of the Senior Leadership Team
- If your compliment, concern or complaint has not been resolved, please ask the member of SLT/ contact the office to elevate this to stage 3.

Stage 3 Headteacher

- If a member of the Senior Leadership Team was unable to resolve your compliment, concern or complaint then it will be passed onto Mr Lording.

Mile Oak Primary School, Graham Avenue, Portslade, BN41 2WN

01273 077114

office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk

http://www.mileoakschool.co.uk